

**PRESS RELEASE**

Paris and Helsinki, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## **EBA CLEARING plans card clearing service on STEP2 platform**

**The new service will clear payments originated by card transactions in line with a pan-European card clearing framework**

EBA CLEARING announced at the EBAday conference in Helsinki today that the Company is implementing a STEP2 Card Clearing Service for a go-live in April 2015.

The new STEP2 service will be based on the SEPA Card Clearing Framework developed by the Berlin Group, a group of 27 major players in the card industry from 25 countries in and beyond the Eurozone; the aim of the Berlin Group is to standardise card clearing across Europe by leveraging SEPA infrastructure.

The service has been developed at the request of a group of major German banks who have agreed to be the launching community of the STEP2 Card Clearing Service. The banks will use the STEP2 Card Clearing Service for clearing payments related to pre-authorised card transactions in line with the specifications of the German GIROCARD scheme.

The new pan-European service on EBA CLEARING's euro retail payment platform will enable user banks to leverage their XML infrastructure and to re-use the interfaces and bank-internal systems they have put in place for the STEP2 SEPA Direct Debit Services.

**PRESS CONTACT:**

**Annick Moes**

Tel: +49 151 16 31 15 26  
(a.moes@ebaclearing.eu)

The service is open to all banks and EBA CLEARING invites all banks wishing to take advantage of the new service to express their interest.

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About  
EBA CLEARING

EBA CLEARING is a provider of pan-European payment infrastructure solutions. The Company was founded in 1998 and is owned by 62 of the major banks operating in Europe.

EBA CLEARING manages the large-value payment system EURO1 as well as STEP1, a payment service for commercial transactions. Since 2003, EBA CLEARING has also been managing the STEP2 platform, together with SIA as technology partner.

STEP2 is a pan-European payment infrastructure for mass payments (Pan-European Automated Clearing House – PE-ACH) providing full reach to all financial institutions across Europe processing credit transfers and direct debits in euro. More than 4,800 financial institutions in 34 countries are reachable via STEP2.

Apart from cross-border transactions, the STEP2 platform processes domestic payments for the banking communities in Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg and Ireland as well as for numerous major banks in other countries, e.g. Germany, Italy and Latvia.

The STEP2 balances are settled via TARGET2.

For additional information about EBA CLEARING, please visit:  
[www.ebaclearing.eu](http://www.ebaclearing.eu)